

12th October 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE:  
(Attention: Colonel Lovell).

Subject: Naval Participation in Document Translation at Pacific MIRS.

1. Admiral schuirmann stated this morning that his first allotment of translators had just been authorized. He expects to assign about a half dozen to meet his commitment for participation in the translation of Japanese air documents pursuant to the agreement reached by Inglis, White, Schuirmann and myself. These translators will be Wave officer graduates of the Boulder School. It is desired that detailed arrangements be worked out by Lovell with Captain Heard or Souers.

2. Admiral Schuirmann will have one of these two officers contact Colonel Lovell regarding naval participation in the document translation at Pacific MIRS. I am sufficiently anxious to get all of the document translation work on the Japanese in one place that I am willing, if necessary, to have the Navy set up there a Navy section under Naval direction. I prefer, however, to set up a joint agency so that the MIRS at Camp Ritchie would handle all air, ground and naval documents. I am willing to give the Navy an equal voice with ourselves and such representation at all levels as they consider necessary and desirable fully to safeguard their interests. I believe that any solution that does not bring all the Japanese documents captured by the Navy to one place is going to be inefficient and ineffective, as the material and documents will apply to ground, air and navy. Due to the organizational characteristics of the Japanese military set-up, the documents cannot be properly segregated for satisfactory use any other way.

3. I know that the Navy is getting a total of 30 of these Wave officers who are translators. I concede at once that Admiral Schuirmann should have in the Navy Department here in Washington a small number of translators who can handle any small emergency translation job that is urgent. Beyond that, I believe that most effective translation could be done by pooling resources. Admiral Schuirmann unquestionably agrees with me. There may be other elements in Naval Intelligence who have different ideas. Since Schuirmann is leaving, I do not believe we can push him too hard as I am sure he will not raise an issue against very much opposition in the Navy. If you cannot succeed in our preferred objective outlined above, I will be willing to accept the other in the hope that at a later date, we can convince Schuirmann's successor, Admiral Thebaud, that what we propose is in the best interests of the Army, Navy and Air Forces.

/s/ Clayton Bissell

CLAYTON BISSELL  
Major General,  
A. C. of S., G-2.

Director of Intelligence

Note: Be most careful and tactful in placement of Naval Officers, physically, at Ritchie. General Bissell directs particular attention be given to this. See me for details.

R.A.O.

SECRET